

Listing of Claims:

34. (Amended) A method of detecting the presence of at least two target nucleic acids in a biological sample comprising the steps of

~~(a) isolating nucleic acid from a biological sample,~~

~~(b) exposing the nucleic acid or cDNA created from the nucleic acid to at least two primer pairs, each pair comprising a 5' and a 3' primer, specific for the target nucleic acid under conditions suitable for nucleic acid amplification and wherein the 5' and 3' primers are of unequal concentration, wherein substantially only double-stranded amplification end products are formed if the sample contains a target nucleic acid, and~~

~~(c) determining whether the amplification product is present by exposing the step (b) products to protein-linked oligonucleotide probes under conditions suitable for hybridization between complementary nucleic acid sequences and examining the probes for the presence of a hybridization product, wherein the oligonucleotide probe is of a sequence identical to the target nucleic acid.~~

*E,  
cont*

exposing a nucleic acid sample to at least two primer pairs specific for at least two target nucleic acids under conditions suitable for nucleic acid amplification, wherein the nucleic acid sample is a nucleic acid obtained from a biological sample or is a cDNA obtained from the nucleic acid of the biological sample, wherein the primer pairs comprise a 5' primer and a 3' primer, wherein the 5' primer and the 3' primer are present in unequal concentrations, wherein double stranded amplification product is formed if the nucleic acid sample contains the target nucleic acids and wherein the amplification product is present in a greater amount compared to product formed with equal primer concentrations as measured by optical density.

---

35. The method of claim 34 wherein the ratio of 5' to 3' primer is selected from the group consisting of approximately 50:25, 25:50, 12.5:50 and 12.5:25.

36. The method of claim 34 wherein the nucleic acid or cDNA created from the nucleic acid is exposed to primers pairs specific for sequences selected from the group consisting of parainfluenza virus-1, 2 and 3,

Appl. No. 09/484,704  
Amdt. Dated May 27, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of January 27, 2003

respiratory syncytial virus A and B and influenza virus A  
and B sequences.

---

E<sub>2</sub> 37. (New Claim) The method of claim 34 wherein the  
product is present at least 3.59 times the amount of  
product produced with equal primer concentration.

---